

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **“Sustainable Development and Energy Committee”**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday January 26, 2010**

**Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall**

**7:00 pm**

#### **1. Welcome / Agenda Review**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Seth Adams. In attendance: Seth Adams, Christine Davidson-McCord, Laura Schlee and staff liaison Erica Shingara.

#### **2. Working Group Administration Details**

A brief overview of the Committee was discussed. Members agreed to continue meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The building code revisions and green building program (incentives, public outreach, etc.) will continue to be the main focus of the committee. There is interest in recruiting additional members to expand expertise and promote community outreach.

#### **3. Building Code updates and “green” revisions**

The proposed amendments to Chapter 5, “Buildings and Building Regulations”, including Article XIV, “Green Building Regulations,” were introduced at the 1/25/2010 Mayor and Council meeting. The first public hearing is scheduled on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor and Council requested an additional public hearing be scheduled on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Environmental Management will coordinate with the Environment Commission and/or the SDEC for testimony.

The Mayor and Council expressed concerns over the following items:

- What are the changes and what items are proposed that are above the standard State/ICC 2009 requirements (i.e., what is Rockville specific)? In preparation for the public hearing, staff will be providing the Mayor and Council with a summary of the changes and the local amendments and green building provisions that are in addition to the 2009 ICC.
- Are the proposed regulations more stringent than adjacent communities such that development would be encouraged outside of the City’s boundaries? Although affecting a smaller threshold (7,500 sq. ft.), the proposed regulations are simplified and incorporate greater flexibility so that they are not more stringent than many of the adjacent jurisdictions. For example, State and County buildings constructed in the City would need to exceed City requirements and meet their

mandated LEED Silver requirements. Staff is compiling a summary of green building requirements from adjacent jurisdictions.

- What are the cost implications on developers and homeowners? Seth Adams previously provided cost estimates from MCPS on the premium for a LEED vs. Non-LEED building. Christine Davidson-McCord will provide a cost comparison of two homes constructed in Frederick, one was constructed under standard requirements and the other was constructed in accordance with the NAHB green requirements.

The Committee discussed the opportunity to build on the proposed green building regulations and incorporate an incentive program to encourage exceptional innovative and sustainable projects, as well as retrofits of existing buildings. Staff is developing a white paper on green building incentives that includes an overview of successful incentives employed by local governments throughout the country as well as an overview of existing federal, state, county, and utility incentives that are currently available to Rockville businesses and residents. Once a draft of the white paper is complete, the SDEC will review and comment.

#### **4. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events**

- Action item: The Committee requested a list of potential future City projects (new facilities, retrofits, etc.).
- The City applied for a grant from the Maryland Historic Trust to conduct energy audits of 10 historic residential properties. If awarded, the audit process, potential improvements, and effectiveness could be shared with the community to promote home energy education.
- Pepco will be releasing a series of new programs to help homeowners conduct energy audits and implement improvements.
- Staff will meet with Montgomery County's energy coordinator next week to discuss potential partnership opportunities.
- The Committee will evaluate opportunities to promote green building and energy conservation at Science Day, Hometown Holidays, and Rockville Reports. For example, members will research existing public outreach materials (BGE), activities (bike-generated electricity), and information on energy audits and effectiveness.
- The City is organizing LEED training for 30 staff from Public Works, Community Planning and Development, and Recreation and Parks.

#### **5. Wrap-up and Adjourn**

The next meeting of the SDEC will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at the Rockville City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.